

PATENT

DOCKET NO. 1182-12(a) CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : James Anthony Lodge

Serial No. : 09/194,714

Filed : December 17, 1998

For : DECORATION METHOD USING THERMOCHROMIC INK

Group Art
Unit : 1762

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the initial Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE TITLE:

Please cancel the title of record and substitute therefor the following new title:

--DECORATION METHOD USING THERMOCHROMIC INK--

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 2, above line 1, add the following:

--RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/194,714, filed December 17, 1998.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2 and 3 and 22 and 23 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) A method of decorating an article of glazed tableware comprising the steps of:

(a) mixing a thermochromic ink with a first coating material to form a first coating mixture;

(b) applying the first coating mixture onto substantially the whole outer surface of the tableware article;

(c) once the first coating mixture is set, applying a second transparent coating material over the first coating mixture;

wherein the second coating material is substantially dishwasher proof.

4. (amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the first coating material is transparent.

5. (amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the first and/or second coating materials comprise lacquers.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the first coating material comprises a water based lacquer.

7. (amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the first coating material comprises an acrylic based lacquer.

9. (amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the proportion of ink in the mixture is within the range 5-25% by volume.

10. (amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the mixture and/or second coating material are cured following application onto the article.

12. (amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the curing includes a heat cure comprising a lower temperature first period, followed by a higher temperature second period.

14. (amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein for the second coating the first period lasts between eight and twelve minutes at 35 to 65°C, with the second period lasting twenty five to thirty minutes at 110 to 165°C.

15. (amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein a decoration is provided on the article beneath the mixture such that when the thermochromic ink is at least translucent, said decoration is visible.

16. (amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the mixture comprises a plurality of thermochromic inks with different colour change temperatures.

18. (amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the mixture and/or second coating material are applied to the article by spraying.

21. (amended) A method according to claim 18 wherein the mixture and/or the second coating material are sprayed to a thickness of between 12 and 24 microns.

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 2 and 3 and claims 22 and 23 have been canceled and the multiple dependency of certain of the claims have been eliminated so as to avoid the surcharge associated therewith.

In addition, the claims have been revised in the manner as amended in the parent application. Accordingly, entry of the foregoing amendments is

respectfully requested and an early and favorable action on the merits of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: February 15, 2002

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS
TO SHOW CHANGES**

1. (amended) A method of decorating an article[, the method] of glazed tableware comprising the steps of:

(a) mixing a thermochromic ink with a first coating material to form a first coating mixture;[,]

(b) applying the first coating mixture onto [part or all of a] substantially the whole outer surface of the tableware article[,];

(c) once the first coating mixture is set, applying a second transparent coating material [onto said surface of the article.] over the first coating mixture;

wherein the second coating material is substantially dishwasher proof.

4. (amended) A method according to [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 wherein the first coating material is transparent.

5. (amended) A method according to [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 wherein the first and/or second coating materials comprise lacquers.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the first coating material comprises [an organic] a water based lacquer.

7. (amended) A method according to [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 wherein the first coating material comprises an acrylic based lacquer.

9. (amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the proportion of ink in the mixture is within the range 5-25% by volume.

10. (amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the mixture and/or second coating material are cured following application onto the article.

12. (amended) A method according to [claims 10 or 11] claim 1 wherein the curing includes a heat cure comprising a lower temperature first period, followed by a higher temperature second period.

14. (amended) A method according to [claims 12 or 13] claim 1 wherein for the second coating the first period lasts between eight and twelve minutes at 35 to 65°C, with the second period lasting twenty five to thirty minutes at 110 to 165°C.

15. (amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein a decoration is provided on the article beneath the mixture such that when the thermochromic ink is at least translucent, said decoration is visible.

16. (amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the mixture comprises a plurality of thermochromic inks with different colour change temperatures.

18. (amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the mixture and/or second coating material are applied to the article by spraying.

21. (amended) A method according to [claims 18 or 20] claim 18 wherein the mixture and/or the second coating material are sprayed to a thickness of between 12 and 24 microns.